in their administration. The vesting of unlimited powers in a single individual was detrimental to the people at large. That was the main reason why the people were clamouring for responsible government. Government should be carried on by the representatives of the people in whom the people would have confidence. It was not possible for the people to have confidence in foreign Dewans. It was only after responsible government was established in Travancore that the people could hope to fill every office in the State by a Travancorean.

192. Responsible Government.

MR. A. PARAMESVARAN NAIR (*Member, Municipal Council, Neyyattinkara*) while expressing his gratitude towards Mr. V. P. Madhava Rao and Dewan Bahadur Mr. T. Raghaviah, former Dewans, for inaugurating the Assembly and the Legislative Council, respectively, and thereby admitting the people to share, at least nominally, the burden of administration, said that, in the Montague-Chelmsford Report, it had been suggested that Indian States also should try to establish responsible governments as in British India. But it was regrettable to note that no reforms in administration had been carried out; nor was the question of responsible government ever discussed in the Legislative Council. The need for responsible government had, however, been pressed upon the Government by other members of the Assembly already.

The evils in the existing system of administration would vanish with the advent of responsible government which should not be delayed further. A council of ministers would go a long way to help the Dewan in administrative matters. If there had been such a council, the Newspapers Regulation, which was causing untold hardship to the people, would not have been passed. There would also have been no cause for the growth of any suspicion towards the Government, if the Dewan, a native of Travancore, had presided over such a council.

The Indian States would get representation in the Imperial Legislative Council only after responsible governments were established. Many national leaders and statesmen had advocated the establishment of such government. It was only then that the Travancore Government would have any chance of discussing international questions relating to ports, railways, customs, posts and telegraphs, which might crop up for the consideration of the Royal Commission that might be appointed in British India in 1929 in pursuance of the Reform Scheme. The establishment of responsible government in Travancore should therefore engage the earliest attention of the Government.

The free and unrestricted administration by a single individual had never done any good to any country. In Travancore, the transportation of a journalist and the students' strike were instances of the evil aspects of such administration. The changes of policy adopted by successive Dewans and the abortive reforms introduced by them had affected the people not a little. The Dewans being in the majority of cases foreigners, the reforms introduced by them in ignorance of local conditions were sure to cause real hardship to the people. Not only that, such measures would have to be given up after some time. The Land Records Scheme introduced in the previous administration was an instance in point. Some of the officers were becoming irresponsible instead of being really of service to the people and doing public good. That was a result of the existing system of administration.

The Government were not bestowing adequate consideration on prohibition, untouchability, technical education, cottage industries, public health and other subjects vitally affecting the people. Making appointments seemed to be the only national question in Travancore. The main cause for unrest was the unequal and inadequate distribution of salaries among the several officers and the unlimited powers exercised by those in the higher ranks. Appointments should be a means of serving the State and not of earning money. The principle could be brought into practical effect only when responsible government was established in Travancore. Responsible government was also the remedy for doing away with communal

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differences in the State. Several reforms had to be carried out to eliminate such differences. Particular communities tried to please or threaten the Government in view to their self-aggrandisement. The Government should not sympathise with such communities. A Government which was influenced by threats had no place in the world.

The time had come for changing the system of administration. The people would not be satisfied with the existing form of government carried on by four or five people instead of by a single individual. The member's prayer was therefore not for an Executive Council consisting of a few such members, but for a Council composed of members who would be responsible to the people and who held office only so long as they enjoyed their confidence. Before forming such a Council, the Legislative Council and the Assembly should be reformed and made more popular by broadening the franchise. A non-official committee should be appointed to suggest measures of reform. The member wished the Dewan to be the President of the proposed Council. Greater attention should be paid to the encouragement of vernacular education and more importance should be assigned to the mother-tongue. Travancoreans should be made to realise the advantages of responsible government; and the member hoped that the Dewan, with his experience in Great Britain, would do all he could to achieve that object thereby putting an end to communal differences, unemployment and other evils and promoting the peace and prosperity of the State.

193. Creation of an Executive Council.

MR. NARAYANA PILLAI RAMAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Member, Kottayam taluk, Group II*) said that all forms of government were established with a view to the promotion of the prosperity of the majority of the people. The goal of all such governments was the peace and prosperity of the States governed. Since the close of the late European War, there was a growing feeling among the people that they should also have a share in the burden of administration. It was as a direct consequence of such feeling that several popular institutions were established in several parts of India. A Legislative Council with a non-official majority was similarly established in Travancore. But the whole duties connected with the administration of the State devolved on a single individual, the Dewan. In the majority of cases, the Dewans were foreigners who were not acquainted with local conditions and who had no special interest in the prosperity of Travancoreans. There was no continuity of policy in any branch of administration. It was necessary that the Dewan should be helped in his functions and his actions controlled by an Executive Council responsible to the Legislative Council and the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly.

As regards the creation of such a Council, there was a feeling among the authorities that, during the period of the Regency, no measures affecting the form of administration should be introduced. But the member was of the view that Her Highness the Maharani Regent had full power to inaugurate any such reform. An Executive Council would only add to the facility of administration, besides conferring a lasting benefit on the people. He was aware that the Dewan was sympathetic to the proposal. A single Dewan, even though he be an extraordinary man, could not find the time and convenience to bestow adequate thought on large administrative questions, besides doing his routine work. There were more than 20 departments controlled by him and he had daily to decide not a few questions connected with those departments. Even minor questions of detail had to be brought to his notice. If an Executive Council was created, many of those matters could be entrusted to its members and the Dewan would find ample time to devote to larger questions of policy and administration.

The evils resulting from the absence of such a council were not few. The Government could not adopt a fixed policy in any branch of administration. The Government was carried on according to the whims and fancies of the Dewan. The measures inaugurated by one Dewan were overthrown by another. The losses that were caused to the people and the State on account of such frequent changes of administrative measures could easily be imagined. There was no fixed principle in regard to the appointment and promotion of officers in the public service. The

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